



# COUNSELOR CONNECTION

VOLUME VII, No. 3

## It's FAFSA Time

It's time for your seniors and their parents to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

To help with this important paperwork, you might want to pass these tips to your students.



- The student will need a personal identification number, or PIN, which can be obtained at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov).
- Students who plan to apply online should complete a Pre-Application Worksheet to guide them as they go along. A printable version of the worksheet is available at [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) or students can print a copy of the worksheet from Section I of the *FAFSA on the Web* homepage at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). For your convenience, a copy of the worksheet is also included with this newsletter.

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- State and federal financial aid is usually determined by the information obtained from the FAFSA.
- The information used to fill out the FAFSA is obtained from the 2003 federal income tax forms.
- The earlier the FAFSA is filled out after the first of the year, the sooner students will be able to find out what financial aid they will be receiving.
- The quickest way to submit the FAFSA is online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). When the FAFSA is completed online, the answers are edited automatically, so mistakes are less likely to be made. The student will also get the results a week or two faster than by using the paper FAFSA.



**ATTENTION  
COUNSELORS!**

In order to update our mailing records and to make sure that all the counselors receive our publications and information, please send counselors' names and e-mail addresses to [tballard@kheaa.com](mailto:tballard@kheaa.com). Thanks.

## Copies of *Getting In* Available

Additional copies of the 2003–2004 edition of *Getting In* are still available. To request additional copies contact Lora Kiser at one of the addresses or numbers on page 1.

KHEAA staff are beginning work on the 2004–2005 *Getting In*, which is mailed to high school guidance counselors for distribution to seniors. The free publication is also sent to admissions and financial aid officers, lenders, librarians, and others throughout Alabama.

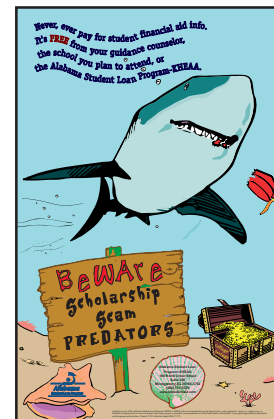
If you have any suggestions that you think will make *Getting In* more valuable to seniors, please contact Tim Ballard, KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602-0798; call 800.928.8926, ext. 7381; fax 502.696.7373; or e-mail [tballard@kheaa.com](mailto:tballard@kheaa.com)

## Remind Your Students About Scams— Display the Scam Poster

Enclosed with this edition of the *Counselor Connection* is a poster reminding students and their families that they do not have to pay for information about student financial aid. Your students can obtain financial aid and higher education information free from the Alabama Student Loan Program–KHEAA.

A student or parent who has been charged for information should contact the Better Business Bureau and the Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, 11 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130, phone number 205.242.7334.

Please display this poster prominently in your school. If you'd like additional copies, please contact Lora Kiser at the address or phone number at the top of the first page.



### It's FAFSA Time (continued from previous page)

- After the FAFSA has been processed, the student will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR will recap the information entered on the FAFSA and will show an expected family contribution.
- The information will automatically be sent to all the schools the students listed on the FAFSA. This information will be used to determine how much aid a student will receive. The school will use the information to create a financial aid package for the student.

**The Alabama Student Loan Program–KHEAA wishes you the happiest of holidays. We will be closed on the following days:**



**Christmas:  
December 25  
and 26**

**New Year:  
January 1 and 2**

